



City of

Freeport

Florida



March 2022

www.freeportflorida.gov

MARCH

Find us on:



2021 Reigning Miss Freeport Queens



Please join us for the
2022 Miss Freeport
Pageant at Freeport
High School – on
Sat, March 12 &
begins at 6:00pm

SAVE THE DATES!

The BIG RED BUS will be
at City Hall from
8am-1pm for blood
donations.

- **Tues, Apr 12th**
- **Tues, Jul 12th**
- **Tues, Oct 11th**



Freeport City Hall offers
FREE notary services to
Freeport residents. Inside
or outside of the city
limits.



Freeport Planning Dept. Saint
Patty's day tree!

SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH!



Calendar of Events

March

- 2: Planning and Development Review Board begins at 6:00pm in Council Chambers
- 8: Regular Council meeting begins at 9:00am in Council Chambers
- 12: Miss Freeport Pageant at Freeport High School begins at 6:00pm
- 24: Regular Council meeting begins at 6:30pm in Council Chambers

April

- 6: Planning and Development Review Board begins at 6:00pm in Council Chambers
- 12: Regular Council meeting begins at 9:00am in Council Chambers
- 16: Spring Festival & Eggstravaganza (10:30am) at the Regional Sports Complex from 9:00am-3:00pm
- 28: Regular Council meeting begins at 6:30pm in Council Chambers

City News



Photo credit: Defuniak Herald

Thank you, Ernie Godwin!

At a recent Regular Council Meeting, Ernie Godwin was recognized for his 13 Years of dedication & service to the City. Mayor Barley presented Ernie with a plaque of appreciation for his service.

Community Events



The 3rd Annual Westonwood Ranch Pro Rodeo will be held March 25-26, 2022, at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex.

To learn admission costs and entertainment performances, please click [here](https://www.westonwood.org/wwr-rodeo-2022) or visit:
<https://www.westonwood.org/wwr-rodeo-2022>

Parks and Recreation Information and News

The Freeport Community Pool will reopen for the season on Monday, May 30th!

Hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat: 10am-6pm

Sunday: Noon – 6pm

Wednesday: CLOSED

Lap Swim: Tues/Thurs: 7:30am – 9:30am

We're Hiring for the Pool starting in April! Freeportflorida.gov/jobs



Freeport Parks

Casey Park

112 State Hwy 20 (next to City Hall)
Freeport, FL 32439

Freeport Regional Sports Complex

563 Hammock Trail East
Freeport, FL 32439

Harry A. Laird Park

601 State Highway 20 W
Freeport, FL 32439

Marse Landing

336 Shipyard Road
Freeport, FL 32439



Freeport Sports Complex

In The Works



The Parks and Recreation Department is developing an online portal on the City Website to reserve fields and the tennis courts in the Freeport Regional Sports Complex. This would allow teams or individuals to reserve multiple days at once or an entire season. This new feature will also include an online calendar of events in City Parks which will help residents find fun, family-friendly things to do in Freeport.

City of Freeport in Tallahassee

The City of Freeport was well-represented in Tallahassee on Thursday, as **City Councilman Mark Martin** and **City Manager Charlie Simmons** visited the Capitol on behalf of the City. Martin and Simmons began their day by attending the Northwest Florida Days Legislative Appreciation Breakfast, which gave them an opportunity to meet and network with local and economic development leaders from the Panhandle. In the afternoon, Martin and Simmons were able to meet with **Senator George Gainer** and **Representative Brad Drake** to discuss the City's legislative priorities.

City Manager Simmons and Councilman Martin with Matt Chesnut of Space Florida.



Leadership Walton Class of 2021-22



From left to right: Councilman Martin, Rep Brad Drake (R-Defuniak Springs), Freeport City Manager Charlie Simmons and NFWFMD Exec Dir Lyle Seigler.



Senator George Gainer (middle) discussed the City of Freeport's legislative priorities with Simmons and Martin.



Councilman Martin with Senator Doug Broxson

While in Tallahassee, they had the opportunity to meet with Senator Doug Broxson to discuss how the City has been forward-thinking in their planning and growth development. They also heard remarks from Senator Lorraine Ausley and Representative Michelle Salzman on what makes Northwest Florida unique to the rest of the state and ways the Florida Legislature could continue to enhance the quality of life in the Panhandle. Additionally, they were able to speak with a representative from Space Florida on what the City has to offer in the way of economic development.



Photographs and content courtesy of Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC.

Government News

On March 1, 2022, the City's of Freeport, Paxton, Defuniak Springs and the Walton County Commission met in a rare Joint Community Meeting to speak about a common issue: transportation/infrastructure.

Walton County Commissioners approved establishing a 5-member committee to identify and rank transportation projects throughout the county and to put forth documentation to place the one-cent tax referendum on the November 8 general election ballot.

Each city and the county voted on the following committee members: Freeport Councilman Mark Martin, Paxton Councilwoman Donna Smith, DeFuniak Springs Councilman Tony Vallee, Walton County Commissioner Tony Anderson and Commissioner William "Boots" McCormick.



A video of the meeting is available by clicking [here](#) or by visiting the Walton County Board of Commissioners Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wbccfl

Representatives of the City of Freeport, Paxton, Defuniak Springs & Walton County pictured after joint meeting.



Freeport City Attorney Clay Adkinson explains details of a potential one-cent tax.



Freeport City Manager Charlie Simmons listens to group discussions.

City Council

Mayor

Russ Barley
rbarley@freeportflorida.gov

Elizabeth Haffner, At-Large
ehaffner@freeportflorida.gov

Tripp Hope, Seat 1
thope@freeportflorida.gov

Elizabeth Brannon, Seat 2
ebrannon@freeportflorida.gov

Eddie Farris, Seat 3
efarris@freeportflorida.gov

Mark Martin, Seat 4
mmartin@freeportflorida.gov

City Administration Officials

City Manager

Charlie Simmons
citymanager@freeportflorida.gov

City Clerk

Katherine Gatewood
cityclerk@freeportflorida.gov

Finance Director

Sara Bowers
accounting@freeportflorida.gov

General Information

112 Hwy 20
Freeport, FL 32439
www.freeportflorida.gov

City Hall

850-835-2822 (Main)
850-835-3137 (Fax)
freeport@freeportflorida.gov (info)

Numbers to Know

EMERGENCY-

Police, Fire and Ambulance 911

NON-EMERGENCY-

Walton County Sheriff 850-892-8111

CITY HALL-

City Clerk, Utility Billing, etc. 850-835-2822

OTHERS

Animal Control 850-892-8758

Army Corp of Engineers 850-849-9780

Chelco 850-892-2111

Cox Communications 850-226-6872

Dept of Envir. Protection (DEP) 850 245-2115

Dept of Motor Vehicles (DMV) 850-892-8121

Elder Affairs 850-414-2000

FEMA 800-621-3362

FL Dept of Transportation (DOT) 850-638-0250

FL Dept of Transportation Traffic 511

Florida Fish & Wildlife (FWC) 850-488-4676

Marriage Licenses & Ceremonies 850-267-3066

Supervisor of Elections 850-892-8112

FWC red tide status 866-300-9399

Walton County Building Dept. 850-892-8160

Walton County Health Dept. 850-892-8015

Walton County Mosquito Control 850-892-8183

Walton County Property Appraise 850-892-8123

Walton County Tax Collector 850-892-8121

Walton County Waste Management 850-835-4230



We would love to hear your feedback & suggestions for the newsletter!
Please email Katherine Gatewood at cityclerk@freeportflorida.gov